**The Genitive: Notes and Guide**

**We have already seen other case uses for Latin:**

* *The nominative is the subject of the sentence—it is the person or thing that does the action.*
* *The accusative is the direct object of the sentence—it is the person or thing that the action is done to.*

**The genitive is the *possessor* or the *owner* of a noun.**

The genitive answers of the question of “whose” or “of whom”.

*In the English examples below, the genitive is underlined*:

* Plato’s writings. “Whose writings is it?” “It’s Plato’s”.
* Grandpa’s car. “Whose car is that? “That is Grandpa’s car.”
* The town of my ancestors. “What town is that?” “That is the town of my ancestors”.

The genitive in Latin can be translated as: **of + noun *or* \_\_\_\_\_\_’s.**

Some examples in Latin (the underlined portions of the English are the translation from the Latin genitive):

1. *rex Troiae:* the king of Troy **or** Troy’s king

2. *principes Graecorum*: the princes of the Greeks **or** The Greek’s princes

3. *Achillis* *parmam*: the shield of Achilles **or** Achilles’ shield

**Nota bene:** *Generally, the genitive goes right next to the noun that is possesses.*

Below are the singular and plural genitive endings for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd declension:

1st: -ae (singular) and -arum (plural)

2nd: -i (singular) and -orum (plural)

3rd: -is (singular) and -um (plural)